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alleged dangers which he asserts will result from Presidential dictation, such as the nomination of a successor, and from the much dreamed-of growth of paternalism. It is with apparent great pride that the author asserts that the states are much more vigorous in their efforts to correct industrial and governmental evils than is the national government.

The route by which Mr. Pierce reaches his conclusion is apparently identical with that followed by the Calhoun group of philosophers in the preparation and enunciation of the fallacious doctrine of state's rights. The Calhoun program when interpreted in a manner satisfactory to the most ardent advocates and admirers of states rights and nullification in that period (1830-1860) least credible in American history, never reached the extremes to which the author would have us go.

He says, "let the people amend the Constitution and take from the national government power to control interstate commerce, then through their state laws they can make short work of the trusts." Even an indifferent observer of the trend of conditions during the last score of years must know that but for the ability of every combination to hide behind the skirts of any or all the forty-six states, the lawless combination would long since have been swept out of existence, and the money power, whether in the guise of an honest trust or private investor, would have been properly regulated and duly preserved from causeless attack.

Instead of stating a reasonable criticism of the great, broad principles of the federal constitution in an earnest and thoughtful manner, closing with well considered, affirmative suggestions, as would be properly expected of a clever judicious member of the New York bar, one is startled to find a declaration breathing of rebellion and encouraging disunion. "There is a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray; but there is also a time to fight and that time has come."

The brilliancy of expression in the book is wasted, for Americans do not believe in disunion, and no amount of clever oratory or flowery expression will turn them from their belief. The time has passed for the promulgation of theories inimical to the exercise of authority by the federal government adequate to make our nation honored at home and respected abroad. The best that may be said for the book is to express the hope that it will prove an excellent antidote to the ideas advanced by the author.

WARD W. PIERSON.

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Wendell, Barrett. *The Privileged Classes.* Pp. 274. Price, \$1.25. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1908.

Both witty and wise,—at the same time paradoxical and gently ironical, this latest book of Professor Wendell's cannot fail to arrest the attention of any but the unthinking and heedless.

Our erstwhile lecturer at the Sorbonne, hesitates not to prick that great bubble, American self-complacency, but he does it so charmingly, that we

cannot pluck up courage to say him nay. He declares that education is the national superstition; that whereas the robber-barons of the Middle Ages would build a Cathedral to atone for their misdeeds, now our captains of industry, our kings of this or that trust build a university, a college, or at least put up a library building, to hide a multitude of sins. Yet, with all these means of getting an education sown broadcast over the land, the education dealt out to our young people is of a very inadequate sort. In short, "*la jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle*." One is reminded too of the caustic remark of Carlyle's of the insufficiency of education in America.

Professor Wendell pays his respects to the "apostles of the kindergarten," by dealing out to them some bitter-sweet truths. Their intentions are well-meaning, they wish to make the way to learning a primrose path, free from obstructions of all sorts. Everything must be made interesting and so young people never learn to concentrate their minds; they are "wheedled" into learning, and consequently fail lamentably when called upon to grapple with any intellectual difficulty.

By the "American Revolution," the title of the second essay, we are not to understand the War of Independence which freed this country from Great Britain, but the abandonment of all our conservative ideas regarding the rights of private property, in short, the adoption of communism and socialism. Another paradox, the "Privileged Classes. They are not the beings whom we are wont to regard as such but those who take up two seats in a trolley car when they have paid but for one; who prate loudly of rights, who have done least to deserve them; those who reverse the conditions once existing here, when it was taxation without representation, and now claim representation without taxation. For questions and conditions such as these, the remedy is, in our author's estimation, education, but that of the right kind. He is eminently sane and conservative in his opinions, and his book is suggestive and inspiring.

MARY LLOYD.

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White, Albert B. *The Making of the English Constitution, 449-1485.* Pp. xxvii, 410. Price, \$2.00. New York: C. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

The history of mankind has passed from one stage to another by almost imperceptible changes; men's views about that history have passed from one shape to another by much more sudden steps. If a consistent account has been given of the occurrences of some period, or a clear picture drawn of its institutions, these hold for a long time, serving as the standard, accepted, and commonplace knowledge of that period. But gradually the picture becomes blurred as a result of detailed study or a changed attitude on the part of reader or student till it seems so unreal, so without verisimilitude, so full of flaws and inconsistencies, that no one is any longer satisfied with it. Then the picture is rubbed out and an effort made to draw a new one. This has been for some time the condition of our views on early English